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**NEWS**

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION  
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Bureau of the Census

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Wednesday,  
May 30, 2001

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**Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products  
April 2001**

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same as the \$1.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons) reported in the preliminary March release.

The March to April change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and wire rods. Increases occurred primarily in line pipe greater than 16 inches in diameter and cold rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Brazil and Australia. Increases occurred primarily with South Africa and Germany.

The year to date statistics through March 2001 showed steel imports of 6.2 million metric tons, a decrease of 2.6 million metric tons from the 8.9 million metric tons through March 2000. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and plates in coils. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Canada, and Taiwan.

**NOTICE**

**With this release, the U.S. Census Bureau is expanding the number of exhibits to provide steel product statistics in the following categories: alloy steel, stainless steel, and carbon (non-alloy) steel. Also included are additional commodity statistics. Detailed information at the "commodity by country" and "country by commodity" levels for alloy steel, stainless steel, and carbon (non-alloy) steel are provided on the Foreign Trade Division's website. A revised 2001 release schedule is also available on the Foreign Trade Division's website at [www.census.gov/foreign-trade](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade).**

**Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is June 26, 2001*

**Monthly Release  
Schedule**

Apr.	05-30-01	Wed.
May	06-26-01	Tues.
Jun.	07-31-01	Tues.
Jul.	08-28-01	Tues.
Aug.	09-25-01	Tues.
Sep.	10-30-01	Tues.
Oct.	11-27-01	Tues.
Nov.	12-27-01	Thurs.
Dec.	01-29-02	Tues.